

Mr. Ismail Hajee Issa Sait (*Mattancheri*): May I know, Sir, who is the distributing agent in Cochin State for the Dalmia Cement Company?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): I do not know.

Mr. President: I think it is Messrs. Harrison and Cross-field.

**ROAD CONNECTING TRICHUR-KADAVALLUR ROAD AND
KADAVALLUR-PALANJI ROAD—PROGRESS
IN CONSTRUCTION OF**

169. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they have taken any steps for the construction of the connection road of the Trichur—Kadavallur road to the Kadavallur—Palanji road as promised in the assurance given in reply to cut motion No. 9. (Public Works) on the 27th July 1940 (Budget Session 1115) moved by Mr. K. R. Viswambharan;

(b) if so, at what stage the construction work has reached?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*):

(a) and (b) A regular estimate for this work is being prepared.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): May I know, Sir, whether the estimates are prepared after deciding upon the question of expending that amount?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): If there is a probability of the work being taken up we prepare the estimate. That will be justification enough to prepare the estimate.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): So no orders have been passed by the Chief Engineer to construct the road?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): I would be very much pleased to construct the road provided there are funds. It costs about Rs. 5,000. We are investigating whether we cannot find savings in some of the road works to take up this work.

**OFFICERS DRAWING SPECIAL ALLOWANCE ON
ACCOUNT OF WAR**

170. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): Will Government be pleased to state whether there are any officers drawing

a special allowance on account of the war and if the answer is in the affirmative, the name or names of such officer or officers?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): An allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem is sanctioned to the Publicity Officer, Mr. K. V. Menon, for his extra duties connected with the war, i.e., as Press Adviser and Censor.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): May I know, Sir, what exactly are the duties of the Press Adviser?

Mr. President: It is very plain, to advise the Press. (*Laughter*).

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Chief Engineer*): I would like to have some more account of the nature of his work.

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): The Press Adviser's duties are varied, and some of them have to be kept confidential and cannot be revealed. But, generally, it may be said that it is with a view to prevent the publication in the Press of news and comments which might be either directly of use to the enemy as affecting tactical, strategical or industrial plans, or indirectly of value as tending to strengthen his morale and determination, that the Press Adviser concerns himself with newspapers. In short, he is advising what all could be published and what should not be published.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): May I know, Sir, whether any newspaper in Cochin is getting direct news from overseas?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): Not necessary. But there are special agencies working outside which send into this State news items free of cost, that is through the anchal and post. Some of the papers have, as a matter of fact, published news of this type. In the course of censorship, the Press Adviser and Censor has had occasion often to warn or advise the Press in regard to the publication of particular items of news.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Is not the news now coming into Cochin already censored in British India?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): Not all of it.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): Is not the war news censored?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): Yes. We are doing censoring work here also. For example, news relating to troop movements, movements of steamers and such other "prejudicial" matter cannot be published. And news like that is prevented from finding publicity by the Press Adviser.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): May I know whether news already censored in British India are again recensored by this Officer?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): No.

Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): Is there any fresh censoring done here?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): Yes, with reference to news received through the Anchal Department.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): Has not the Commissioner of Police more extra work to do than the Publicity Officer on account of the war? (*Laughter*).

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): May I know, Sir, what exactly are the duties of the Publicity Officer and the Censor?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): His activities are two-fold. One is as Press Adviser and the other is as Censor.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): May I know whether these are distinct duties or supplementary duties?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): These are two separate functions. The Press Adviser keeps himself in daily touch with the Press. The other duty is the censorship of news and articles that come to the various newspapers in the State through the anchal. These are two different and separate categories of work. As Press Adviser, he has to advise the Press as to what type of matter can be published and what should not be published. As Censor, he has to examine all the communications that come addressed to the various newspaper offices and prevent the publication of such of them as are not in the interests of the State or unhelpful to the conduct of the war.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): May I know, Sir, whether letters addressed to the editor of the *Gomathi* are being censored by the Sub-Magistrate, Trichur, before publication?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): Yes. As a matter of fact, in Mattancheri also the censorship is done by the Magistrate, Mattancheri.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): Are they given any special allowance?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): I am afraid the hon'ble member has not understood the actual position. As a matter of fact, in Trichur, there will be only 12 to 15 letters a day, whereas here it comes to about 25 to 30 letters, and in Mattancheri the number is very small.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): Is the Magistrate of Kanayannur authorised to examine the letters and communications to the editors of the dailies published from here?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): No.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Why not that be done?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): There are only one or two weekly newspapers in Mattancheri and they do not get many letters. There are two dailies in Ernakulam and they get a large number of letters daily. From the statistics supplied by the Sub-Magistrates of Mattancheri and Trichur some months ago, it was seen that while in Ernakulam I had to go through about 25—30 letters on an average per day, in Trichur there were not more than 15 letters on an average and only 3 or 4 letters in Mattancheri.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Why not these letters be divided between the Sub-Magistrate here and the Publicity Officer? The difference between Trichur and Ernakulam is about 10 letters.

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): Why should it be done when the Press Adviser is here?

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): The question is with regard to the supplementary allowance? (*Laughter*).

Mr. President: The allowance is given to him as Adviser and not as Censor. The Censor's work is done freely both by the Magistrate and the Publicity Officer (*Laughter*), and for the Adviser's work he is given the allowance.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): If that be so, that portion ought to have been deleted from the answer.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): He has to advise only in regard to news regarding war or any other subjects?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): Many other subjects too.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): May I know some instances?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): I can only give instances in a general way. I have to scrutinise the newspapers, for instance, with a view to find out whether any of the provisions of the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder are being contravened by them. That is one of the duties of the Press Adviser. I have also to see that they do not publish any matter which may be prejudicial to the defence of India or to public safety and order.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar (*Trippunittura*): Was the Publicity Officer advising the Press even before the outbreak of war?

Mr. K. V. Menon (*Publicity Officer*): No.

**DEPARTMENTAL TESTS EXAMINATIONS—HOLDING OF
TWICE A YEAR**

171. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Madras Government is having their Departmental Tests twice a year ;
- (b) will Government be pleased to have the same system of holding Departmental Tests twice a year ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*):

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.

POLICE CONSTABLES—THEFTS COMMITTED BY

172. Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) the number of cases of theft, receiving of stolen property and offences of a like nature committed by Police constables in the years 1114, 1115 and 1116 ;
- (b) where and when the offence was committed ;
- (c) the action taken and punishment awarded ?

Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*):

- (a) There were no such cases in 1114. In 1115 there was one case under section 360, C. P. C. and one case under sections 391, 394 and 400, C. P. C. In 1116 there has been no such case.
- (b) The first offence referred to in (a) was committed in Mattancheri on 2nd Meenam 1115. The second was committed in Trichur between the 2nd and 5th of Mithunam 1115.
- (c) Both the offenders were prosecuted and convicted. In the 1st case the offender was dismissed. In the 2nd, Punishment Roll is awaited.